

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board

251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114
617-626-1700 fax: 617-626-1850 www.mass.gov/agr



DEVAL L. PATRICK
Governor

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
Lieutenant Governor

IAN A. BOWLES
Secretary

SCOTT J. SOARES
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MEMBERS

Lee Corte-Real, **Chairman**
Department of Agricultural
Resources (DAR)

Anne Carroll
Department of Conservation
And Recreation (DCR)

Gary Gonyea
Department of Environmental
Protection (DEP)

ADMINISTRATION

Mark S. Buffone
Executive Director

Alisha Bouchard
Project Administrator

MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECTS & DISTRICTS

Berkshire County Mosquito
Control Project

Bristol County Mosquito Control
Project

Central Massachusetts
Mosquito Control Project

Cape Cod Mosquito
Control Project

East Middlesex Mosquito
Control Project

Norfolk County Mosquito
Control Project

Northeast Massachusetts
Mosquito & Wetland
Management District

Plymouth County Mosquito
Control Project

Suffolk County Mosquito Control
Project

DATE: Wednesday, March 24, 2010

TIME: 10:00 A.M. TO 12:00 PM

LOCATION: Cape Cod Community College, Room 213, Lorusso Applied
Technology Building, 2240 Iyannough Road
(Route 132), West Barnstable, MA

PARKING: *Use Parking Lots 10 & 11, across the street from the Lorusso
Building for the meeting on March 24, 2010 at the Cape Cod
Community College. If no spaces are available, please use
parking at the tennis courts.*

Meeting Agenda

- A. *Start:* Call to Order by Chairman Corte-Real, and Attendance.
- B. *Minutes/Summary:* The Board will consider for approval the meeting minutes of the March 4, 2010 meeting. **(Voting Required)**
- C. *Public comment/input period:* The Board will provide an opportunity for the general public to speak and listen to their concerns. **Note:** *There will be a brief presentation by Gabrielle (Gabi) Sakolsky, Cape Cod Mosquito Control Project.*
- D. *Other:* The Board will consider any other business (if any). **Note:** *Hard copies of the final Board Budget Notification and Compliance Certification Policy will be available.*
- E. *Adjournment:* The Board will officially adjourn the meeting.

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Subject: Meeting Minutes

Date / Time: Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Place: Cape Cod Community College, Room 213, Lorusso Applied
Technology Building, 2240 Iyannough Road (RT 132), West Barnstable, MA

Present:

Board and Administration:

Lee Corte-Real, Department of Agricultural Resources, Chairman
Anne Carroll, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Member
Gary Gonyea, Department of Environmental Protection, Member
Mark Buffone, Executive Director

Mosquito Control Project Commissioners:

J. Gregory Milne, Cape Cod Mosquito Control Project Commission
Arthur W. Neil, Cape Cod Mosquito Control Project Commission

Mosquito Control Project Directors/ Superintendents /Assistants:

Jack Card, Northeast MA Mosquito Control & Wetlands Mgmt District
Tim Deschamps, Central MA Mosquito Control Project
John Doane, Cape Cod Mosquito Control Project
David Henley, East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project
Bruce A. Landers, Suffolk County Mosquito Control Project
Priscilla Matton, Bristol County Mosquito Control Project
Timothy McGlinchy, Central MA Mosquito Control Project
Gabrielle Sakolsky, Cape Cod Mosquito Control Project
John Smith, Norfolk County Mosquito Control Project
Anthony "Tony" Texeira, Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project

Others:

Bob Ritchie, MDAR, General Counsel
Senator Robert O'Leary's office: Sue Rohrback
Senate President Therese Murray's office:
Monica Mullin and Jaqueline Horigan
Representative Jeffrey Perry' office: Ben Nugent
Barnstable Town Councilor, Ann B. Canedy
Barnstable Town Conservation Admin., Rob Gatewood
Barnstable DPW Director, Mark Ells
Barnstable County Beekeeper Assoc., George Muhlebach
Dennis Health Director Terence M. Hayes
Dennis Citizen, Peter McDowell
Yarmouth Health Dept. Director, Bruce Murphy
Bourne Health Inspector, Carrie Furtek
Nantucket Health Director, Richard Ray
Eastham DPW Superintendent, Neil Andre

- A: Start: Call Meeting to Order and Attendance.** Chairman Lee Corte-Real called the meeting to order at a little after 10 A.M. and took attendance. Present were Anne Carroll representing Commissioner Sullivan, of the Department of Conservation and Recreation and Gary Gonyea representing Commissioner Burt of the Department of Environmental Protection. The Chairman recognized himself representing Commissioner Soares, of the Department of Agricultural Resources and stated there was a quorum.
- B. Minutes: Board will consider for approval the meeting minutes of the March 4, 2010 meeting.**
- B.1: Background:** The Chairman stated that the minutes were sent out for review and approval, asked if there were any comments, and hearing none, entertained a motion to approve the minutes of March 4, 2010.
- B.2: Questions and Discussions:** None
- B.3: Action Taken:** A. Carroll moved to approve and accept the minutes of March 4, 2010. The motion was seconded G. Gonyea and was voted unanimously 3-0.
- C: *Public comment/input period:* The Board will provide an opportunity for the general public to speak and listen to their concerns. *Note: There will be a brief presentation by Gabrielle (Gabi) Sakolsky, Cape Cod Mosquito Control Project.***
- C.1: Background:** The Chairman stated that the primary order of business and the reason the Board decided to meet at this site was to listen to citizens from Cape Cod. He thanked those responsible for making arrangement at this facility and providing refreshments. The Chairman proceeded to acknowledge J. Greg Milne, a Cape Cod Mosquito Control Commissioner who asked to make a few remarks.
- C.2: Questions and Discussion:** J. Greg Milne thanked the Chairman and identified himself as one of the Cape Cod Mosquito Control Commissioners as well as a town councilor in Barnstable. He expressed to the Board that Jere Downing Chair of Cape Cod Mosquito Control Commission planned to make these remarks but could not be here today due to medical reasons. He assured those present that Jere was OK. Mr. Milne welcomed the Board on behalf of the Cape Cod Mosquito Control Commission. He also expressed that he found this particular facility an excellent venue and that it was a gold leed certified building. He mentioned that Cape Cod was leading the state in environmental technology and cited this building as well as their mosquito control project. Additionally, he thanked Valerie Massard, Cape Cod Community College environmental technology coordinator. Mr. Milne remarked that this facility was as close to carbon neutral as you can get. He introduced Valerie Massard who also wanted to welcome the Board and then conveyed to everyone that there would be a brief presentation given by Gabrielle (Gabi) Sakolsky of the Cape Cod Mosquito Control Project. Valerie welcomed everyone and thank those present especially the representatives for the legislature. She thanked the Cape Cod Mosquito Control Project who she mentioned has supported the environmental technology program by hosting many interns which in turn help them to learn and be exposed to biology, laboratory work, field work, as well as interact with residents about mosquito control issues. Lee Corte Real thanked Valerie on behalf of the Board and all mosquito control projects in the state. Then, Chairman Corte Real introduced Gabrielle (Gabi) Sakolsky.

Gabi introduce herself stating she was the Assistant Superintendent and Entomologist of the Cape Cod Mosquito Control Project. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to provide an overview of the Cape Cod Mosquito Control program and inform those present of the activities that take place in Barnstable County for mosquito control. She commented that the district was established through legislation in 1930 and charged with controlling mosquitoes in all 15 towns in Barnstable County. She said that they use Integrated Pest Management or IPM and focused their controls on the developmental stages of mosquitoes such as eggs, larvae, and pupae where they are found in and around standing water. She mentioned the importance of historical maps and over 30 species of mosquitoes found on the Cape (most are fresh water) with a couple of diurnal ones that were very aggressive salt marsh mosquitoes and one a brackish water species.

She continued by saying that 9 crews and 22 people monitor over 4,000 sites on the Cape and when thresholds are exceeded, actions are taken. Water Management and maintaining ditches established prior to the projects existence are a large part of their mosquito control efforts. Ditches help the move the water off the marsh and also allow fish to get to pools where mosquitoes develop. She stated that they conduct selective ditch management. They have over 50 sq miles of salt marsh, 5 sq miles of freshwater swamps, and hundreds, if not thousands of miles of ditches. Most of their work is done by hand to clean ditches. They cleaned 146,000 feet inland ditches and over 44,000 feet salt marsh ditches in 2009 alone. They also clean ditches using mechanized equipment with low ground pressure. The equipment spreads a very thin layer of soil over the marsh as it goes and is considered to have virtually no impact on marsh ecological systems. To access these wetlands, they need to create access paths and this is done during the winter to be able to maintain these systems. One unforeseen benefit is that this helps towns since FEMA recognizes the work as hazard mitigation for flooding and some towns used the Cape's program work to apply under community rating system to get discounts for their citizens on flood insurance rates.

Additionally, the program staff opens pipes helping towns with culverts to keep water moving. You cannot reduce all the water in certain habitats such as permanent swamps. These areas are treated with a larvicide or pupacide. Most of what they use is Bti (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*) that mosquito larvae must ingest. Once mosquitoes go beyond the larval stage (pupal stage) where they are no longer feeding, products such as Agnique, a mono molecular film and Golden Bear Oil GB 1111 are used to control this stage.

They used Altosid WSP and Vectolex WSP, water soluble packets in catch basins and treated over 10,000 catch basins in 2009 to control West Nile vectors.

A crew goes out on a regular basis since products such as Bti last only 48 hours and does not stay in the system long. As a result, crews go out every 2 weeks to check and treat if warranted. She noted that many situations occur as a result of mosquitoes developing in buckets, gutters, containers, tires, and tarps on citizen's properties. They go out to every call to assess problem, identify species of mosquitoes, and educate the public about mosquitoes on their own property.

The third aspect of their program, in addition to water management, and larviciding, is education. They come to the college to speak to students. They also talk to 300-400 people (*a year?*) who are concerned about mosquitoes.

Gabi continued stating that any IPM program looks at efficacy at what you are doing. She mentioned that they are constantly conducting larval monitoring to look at efficacy of product they are using; they also do adult trapping, with light traps. She described the types of light traps used on the Cape. She remarked that a number of them are set up throughout Cape Cod. She has control sites where no work is done, for example, at the Cedar Swamp in the National Seashore for comparison purposes.

Finally, she explained their program and involvement in arbovirus disease monitoring even though the Cape has remote risk. Nonetheless, DPH depends on them to do the trapping and identification and ship to the state lab for testing for arbovirus and that both West Nile virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis has been found in mosquitoes such as *Culiseta melanura* and *Culex pipiens* respectively.

They work very closely with the towns especially Board of Health's. They immediately go out and treat catch basins in the areas where positives mosquitoes have been found, educate, hand out pamphlets, and ask the town if there is anything else they can do for the town.

After her presentation, Gabi answered several questions. In particular, one question was raised about the number of year round employees. Gabi stated there are 22 employees and they are year round because water management work is conducted from October through April and the rest of the year is treatment time. Another question was if people can call them directly or health department. She stated that most people call them directly or if they do go thru the health department that they are transferred to them.

Chairman Corte-Real then opened the meeting up to the public. Several individuals made comments that supported the Cape Cod Mosquito Control Program as highlighted below.

A Dennis Citizen, Peter McDowell, expressed his concerned about a recent negative media report about mosquito control and implored the Board not to do anything rash in response to that report that could change the Cape Cod Mosquito Control District. He suggested that the Cape Cod District was very responsive to mosquito issues on his property. He shared his personal experience with the district. He commented positively on the Greenhead Fly control they do as well. He pleaded that the Board not interfere with the good services the Cape provides to citizens.

Monica Mullin, representing Senate President Murray Office, thanked the Board for meeting on the Cape. She mentioned that the Barnstable government is a cooperative and strong government and she stated that the Cape Cod Mosquito Control Commission works very well with them. She was happy to hear that not only is the mosquito program responsive to the municipalities but also to individual citizens. Two things that are very important to the Senator are agriculture and tourism. Senator Murray supports them and without the Cape Cod program, these industries would be affected. She thanked the Cape Cod program and Commission.

Bourne Health Inspector, Carrie Furtek, remarked how great the services of the Cape Cod Program especially when West Nile virus was found in Bourne.

Barnstable Town Councilor, Ann B. Canedy, related a personal experience she had when the town was dealing with a block culvert which was creating conditions condition to mosquito development. She spoke highly of the mosquito program.

J. Gregory Milne, Cape Cod Mosquito Control Project Commission, read a letter of support from John C. Klimm, Town Manager for Barnstable and handed it to the Chairman Corte-Real.

Senator Robert O'Leary's office representative Sue Rohrback stated that the Senator likes the mosquito program and continues to support it since the program is highly regard by the public on the Cape for its responsiveness and professionalism.

Representative Jeffrey Perry' office: Ben Nugent reiterated many of the positive comments expressed supporting the Cape Cod Mosquito Control Project.

Mark Ellis, Town of Barnstable DPW, expressed that they the program was tremendous resource and had a long standing relationship, and could not resolve any of the health concerns without them.

Richard Ray, Nantucket Director of Board of Health, thanked the program especially Gabi. He stated that they did not have a mosquito program but they do have mosquitoes. They are working towards their own program but the economics currently prohibit that right now. He applauded the assistance of Gabi who identified mosquitoes, defining what some area of mosquitoes, and providing short term advice on how to deal with it and it was free. He cannot say enough about the program.

Rob Gatewood, Barnstable Conservation Division, stated that he supported the mosquito control program which has benefited their agency. Mosquito Control Water management expertise is second to none. He deals with a lot of individuals and many times refers them to the mosquito control for solution. They value the program very much.

Neil Andres, Town of Eastham, relayed a story about the Sagamore Marsh and how the mosquito control project resolved. He highlighted that the program can do something that no one else can do due to being able to go on individual properties and wetland areas. He could not thank them enough.

Bruce Murphy, Director of Health, Yarmouth, felt the program was very valuable assisting the towns when it comes to the health problems especially education and after school programs.

The Chairman thanked those who made comments and stated that the Board was also opened to hear any other comments regarding other mosquito control programs but that since the Board chose to meet on the Cape that the comments were focused on the Cape program.

C.3: Action Taken: None

D: *Other: The Board will consider any other business (if any). Note: Hard copies of the final Board Budget Notification and Compliance Certification Policy will be available.*

D.1: Background: Chairman Corte-Real asked the Executive Director if there were any other business.

D.2: Questions and Discussions: The Executive Director noted that hard copies of the new budget notification and compliance certification policy that the Board voted on March 4th were available. Chairman asked if there were any comments to the changes made to the policy presented at the last meeting. There were none.

John Doane was acknowledged and he thanked everyone especially the town and state officials. He thanked the Board for coming to Cape Cod.

Chairman Corte-Real answered a question about Commissioner Appointments stating that all Commissioners remain in their current position and will continue to serve until that time as they are re-appointed and/or a successor is appointed. He commented that the Board has been busy with many different matters.

Gary Gonyea informed the Board that he and the Executive Director met with MEPA recently to discuss next steps. He remarked that the deadline for comments on the mosquito control GEIR was Friday, March 26, 2010 and encouraged those present to send their comments to MEPA. The Executive Director stated that the comments were important in that the final Secretary's Certificate will reflect many of the comments. Anne Carroll added remarked that comments should reflect in general statewide mosquito control activities even though the public in attendance here might support their particular mosquito control program.

Gary Gonyea provided the address to those present. In addition to the address, the Executive Director provided the reference number of the program, mosquito control program #5027.

During the discussion, the Executive Director mention that the future of mosquito control may include GIS mapping of mosquito control activities. The Chairman agreed that some semblance of GIS mapping where citizens could log on to find out where work is being done and what is being done is something the Board supports. Unfortunately, he remarked that GIS capabilities are different amongst the 9 programs. Anne Carroll stated that the Board has not committed to this but only to hosting another meeting to discuss this issue further and hopefully identify what might be available and/or what capabilities exist. It was suggested that the mosquito control programs have GIS people and that they should be invited to these discussions.

The Executive Director reminded everyone that the next meeting scheduled for May 26th was postponed to June 1st for 10:00 A.M. to Noon at the MA DCR West Boylston Field Office, 180 Beaman Street, West Boylston, MA and has been posted accordingly. This meeting will focus on budget certifications by the Board.

D.3: Action Taken: None

F: Adjournment: The Board will officially adjourn the meeting.

F.1: Background: Chairman Corte-Real entertained a motion to adjourn.

F.2: Questions and Discussions: None

F.3: Action Taken: A. Carroll made motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 AM seconded by G. Gonyea And unanimously voted 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark S. Buffone
Executive Director